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SOLO
ALL NEW STORY! ALL NEW ART!
EX MUTANTS
JIMMY PALMIOTTI

SOLO EX-MUTANTS

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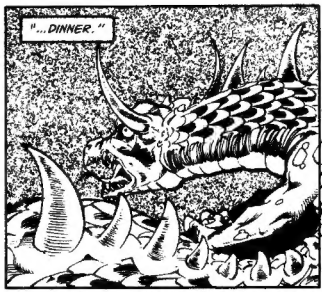
THE FUTURE IS NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN ALONE...
...UNLESS SHE'S PACKING A SAMURAI SWORD...
PLOP!
PLOP!
...AND A LARGE PISTOL...
BLAMM!
I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE!
...AND HER NAME IS ANGELA...
...ONE OF THE EX-MUTANTS!
MUTANTS! MUTANTS! MUTANTS!

THAT'S THE 16TH CREATURE I'VE HAD TO KILL SO FAR... AND I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE FOR TWO DAYS.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, BY THE END OF THE WEEK MY HANDS WILL BE SO BLISTERED I WON'T BE ABLE TO FEED MYSELF.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH ONE OF THE OTHERS...
NO! I NEED SOME TIME TO MYSELF!
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER ALMOST EVERY DAY SINCE DOC MADE US HUMAN.*
I NEED SOME TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT-- FIND OUT WHO AND WHAT I AM.
"I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT I ONCE WAS..."
"...OR HOW HORRIBLE ...BRUTAL ...LIFE USED TO BE."
*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE EX-MUTANTS #1

I'LL NEVER FORGET... HMMM...


"...DINNER."

CHOK

GOOD THING I REMEMBERED TO BRING ALONG DOC'S TESTING EQUIPMENT.
AS LONG AS HIS BLOOD SAMPLE DOESN'T CHANGE COLOR, THIS PUP IS ONE SAFE SNACK.
PERFECT.

NOW IF ONLY I'D REMEMBERED TO PACK A FEW SPICES...UH OH...

YOU CAN COME IN IF YOU'RE HUNGRY...

...UNLESS YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE THAN ROAST LIZARD...

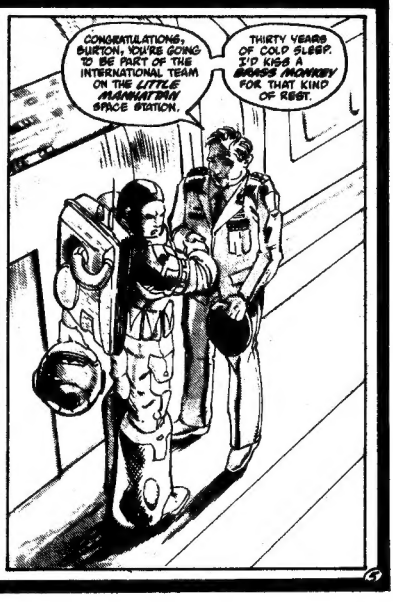
FEAR NOT, MAIDEN FAIR... I COME SEEKING ONLY FOOD--THOUGH I COULD USE A BIT OF HUMAN CONVERSATION.
THIS FOUR-LEGGED BEAST ONLY KNOWS SPORTS TRIVIA.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE ME?
BURTON--LT. LANCE BURTON.
"AND THIS IS ROSCOE 14, THE DOG OF WONDER."
AND, IF I MAY BE SO BOLD, I DON'T LOOK EXACTLY LIKE YOU --UNLESS SOMETHING DRASTIC HAS HAPPENED TO ME IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.
...BUT... BUT...
YOU SOUND LIKE A MOTOR-BOAT. NOW, DOES THE OFFER OF DINNER STILL HOLD?

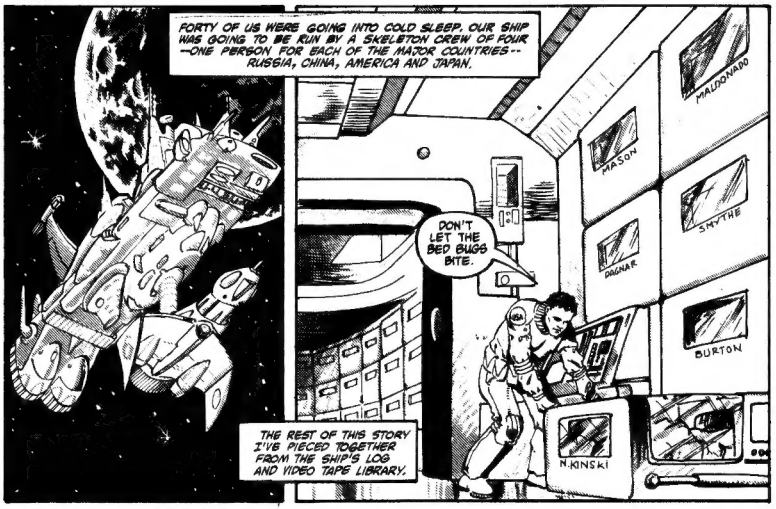
...AND RIGHT NOW I'M ON A LITTLE VACATION. I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF THE CITY BY MYSELF FOR A LONG TIME.

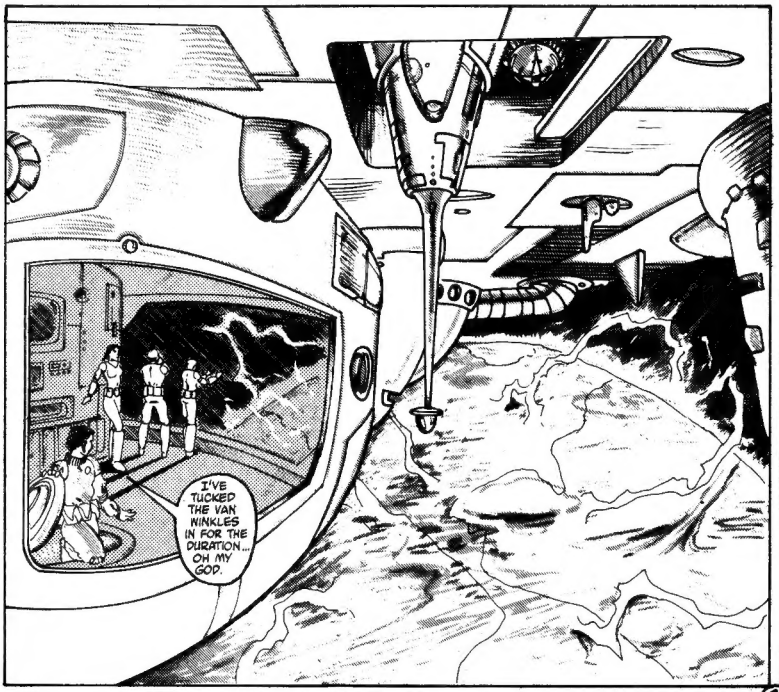
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF.
SORRY, IT'S MY OLD MILITARY TRAINING. WE'RE TAUGHT TO KEEP SECRETS.

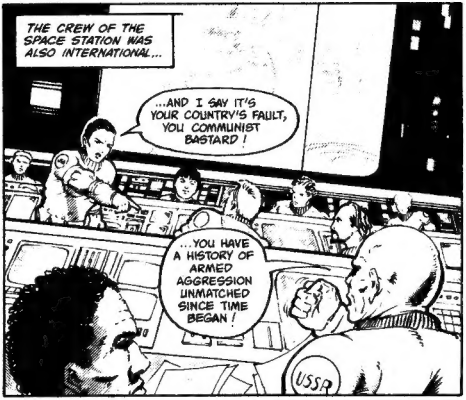
BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY LEFT TO KEEP A SECRET FROM.

I WAS ATTACHED TO NASA BACK IN 1995.
HELLO, JACK. YOU LEFT EARLY THIS MORNING...
...AND YOU SNORE.
YEAH, I'LL CALL YOU.

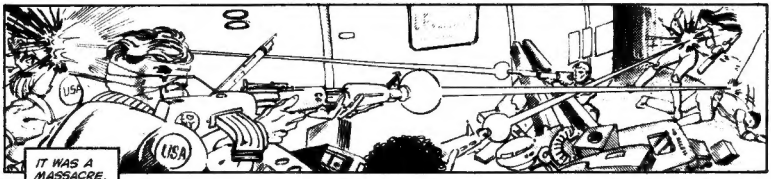

CONGRATULATIONS, BURTON, YOU'RE GOING TO BE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM ON THE LITTLE MANHATTAN SPACE STATION.
THIRTY YEARS OF COLD SLEEP. I'D KISS A BRASS MONKEY FOR THAT KIND OF REST.

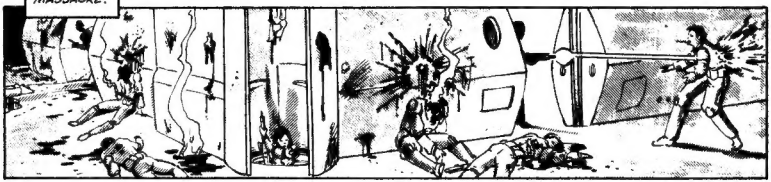

FORTY OF US WERE GOING INTO COLD SLEEP. OUR SHIP WAS GOING TO BE RUN BY A SKELETON CREW OF FOUR --ONE PERSON FOR EACH OF THE MAJOR COUNTRIES-- RUSSIA, CHINA, AMERICA AND JAPAN.
MALDONADO
MASON
SMYTHE
DAGNAR
BURTON
N.KINSKI
DON'T LET THE BED BUGS BITE.
THE REST OF THIS STORY I'VE PIECED TOGETHER FROM THE SHIP'S LOG AND VIDEO TAPE LIBRARY.


I'VE TUCKED THE VAN WINKLES IN FOR THE DURATION... OH MY GOD.


THE CREW OF THE SPACE STATION WAS ALSO INTERNATIONAL...
...AND I SAY IT'S YOUR COUNTRY'S FAULT, YOU COMMUNIST BASTARD!
...YOU HAVE A HISTORY OF ARMED AGGRESSION UNMATCHED SINCE TIME BEGAN!
USSR

ARSENAL
THIS WILL SHOW THEM WHO'S BOSS AROUND HERE.


USA
USA
IT WAS A MASSACRE.



FINALLY IT WAS DOWN TO THE LAST TWO CREW MEMBERS. THEY STOOD IN ONE OF THE CORRIDORS, THEIR WEAPONS SPENT, AND TRIED TO STARE ONE ANOTHER DOWN, WAITING FOR AN OPENING.

THEY STARVED TO DEATH.

WE WOKE UP THIRTY YEARS LATER LIKE WE WERE PROGRAMMED TO.
MAN, I'VE GOT SOME SERIOUS SLEEP TO RUB OUT OF MY EYES!
WHERE ARE THE SHOWERS ?
...OH MY GOD...

THE STENCH WAS TERRIBLE.
LARSON, MILLER--CHECK THE DAMAGE TO THE SHIP. HENDERSON--SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT CLEANING THIS UP. LAUNCH THE BODIES INTO SPACE IF YOU HAVE TO.

THE SHIP IS STILL OPERATIONAL. WE CAN COMPLETE THE MISSION IF WE WANT, OR WE CAN RETURN TO EARTH AND HELP WHAT'S LEFT OF THE POPULATION REBUILD.

IF THERE'S ANYBODY LEFT ...OR EVEN IF IT'S SAFE.

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN--WE CAN'T STAY HERE. THERE ARE ONLY ENOUGH SUPPLIES LEFT FOR 24 MONTHS.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE SHUTTLE DOWN, DR. SMYTHE--SEE WHAT'S LEFT AND SCROUNGE SOME SUPPLIES.
THE SHIP'S COMPUTERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL US IF ANY UNDERGROUND STOREHOUSES CAME THROUGH UNDAMAGED.
"AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT'S DOWN THERE."
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH...
I'VE BEEN AROUND THE PLANET TWICE, AND THERE'S NO FLAT SURFACE LEFT TO PUT DOWN SAFELY...
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DITCH IN THE OCEAN.
I SAT THERE FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE A PASSING SHIP RESCUED ME...
IF RESCUE IS THE RIGHT WORD.
CUT HIM! CUT HIM DEEP!
WHAT COULD WE GET FOR HIM IN PORT?
HE'S FISH FOOD IF YOU ASK ME! THROW HIM BACK!
AND SUDDENLY, I KNEW MORE ABOUT THIS PLANET THAN I CARED TO.

THEY PUT INTO PORT SOMEWHERE NEAR WHAT USED TO BE SOUTH CAROLINA.

I STILL SAY WE SHOULD DUMP HIM AND HEAD OVER TO THREE-LEGGED SALLY'S.

NOT UNTIL WE'VE SHOWN HIM TO FAT LARRY...

SALLY'S DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD...

SHUT UP AND GET A MOVE ON, SCUM!

LARRY HATES TO BE KEPT WAITING!

YE OLDE INN

THAT'S WHEN I MET ROSCOE.

SNAP

THE TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER. THERE WAS SOME SORT OF SLAVE UPRISING THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TOWN.

I MANAGED TO SLIP OUT OF TOWN VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED.

EXCEPT FOR ROSCOE 14--HE'S BEEN WITH ME EVER SINCE. HE'S VERY GOOD AT SNIFFING OUT MUTANTS.

LIKE THE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN WATCHING US FOR THE LAST HALF-HOUR.
WATCH THE LEFT SIDE, ANGELA!
I SEE THEM!
BLAMM! BLAMM!
LET'S SEE YOU SURVIVE THIS HOLOCAUST!
MAN'S BEST FRIEND --ONCE HE GETS A FIRM GRIP, IT'S ALL OVER.
CHOMP!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. ANY IDEAS?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
THIS IS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN THIRTY YEARS!

KONK!
BLAM!
ANGIE!
WHACK!
...I...HATE... MUTANTS...
fizzle... fizzle... zzz
SNIFF SNIFF
THE MASTER WILL BE PLEASED.
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE'S HAD WHITE MEAT.

"DAMN! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY WITH HER, MY KING!"
"PATIENCE, MR KETCHAM IF LIFE WAS EASY, IT WOULDN'T BE MY FUN."
AT LEAST THEY'VE GOTTEN RID OF HER PESKY COMPANION.
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM.
AND THE LAST THING I NEED AS MY WEDDING DAY APPROACHES IS A PROBLEM.
BITCH! BITCH! BITCH!
THAT'S ALL I'VE HEARD FROM YOU SINCE WE PICKED YOU UP!
ONE MORE PEEP OUT OF YOU AND IT'S INTO THE EVENING STEW-POT... A LOT QUICKER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED.
BAH! WOMEN! CAN'T LIVE WITH 'EM, CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT 'EM.
MIGHT AS WELL EAT THEM!

IF I HAD MY BLADE, HE'D BE IN THE STEW-POT WITH HIS BUDDIES AS ADDED FLAVOR.

I WISH BURTON WERE STILL ALIVE. I'D LIKE TO HAVE FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM. BUT SINCE HE'S NOT...
I'D BETTER GET STARTED.

THOK!

ONE GUARD. THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY.

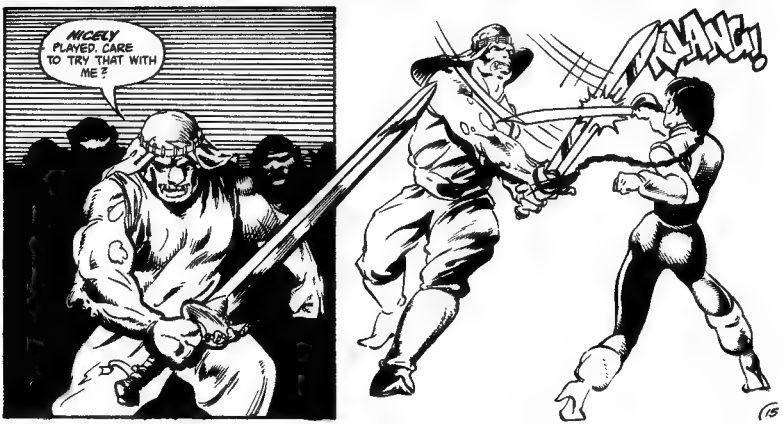
...ULK...

I THINK WE'VE BEEN MORE THAN TOLERANT, YOUNG LADY.
OOPS.

YOU'VE JUST BECOME MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'RE WORTH...AND SOME OF US ARE GETTING MIGHTY HUNGRY.

HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT POISONOUS TO EAT? I COULD BE FULL OF RADIATION.
LOOK AT ME! YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT DYING?

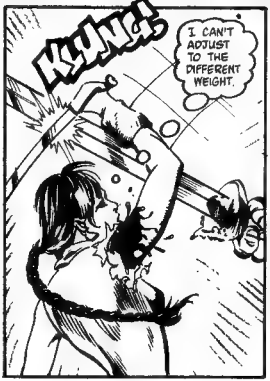
I WAS HOPING YOU'D TAKE THAT ATTITUDE.
THUK!


NICELY PLAYED. CARE TO TRY THAT WITH ME?
KANG!

HA!

FIRST BLOOD!
AND IT SMELLS GOOD!
DAMN!

THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
I WISH I HAD MY OWN SWORD.


KLANG!
I CAN'T ADJUST TO THE DIFFERENT WEIGHT.

KLANG!
I'D BE BETTER OFF WITH ONE OF ZACK'S WRENCHES.

WHAPP!
...OH...

I THINK NOW'S THE TIME TO STOP PLAYING WITH MY FOOD...

THE TIME HAS COME, MR KETCHAM. LINCHMAN THE TROOPS
AND TELL THEM NO PRISONERS...
...EXCEPT THE ONE.
WITH PLEASURE... MY LORD.

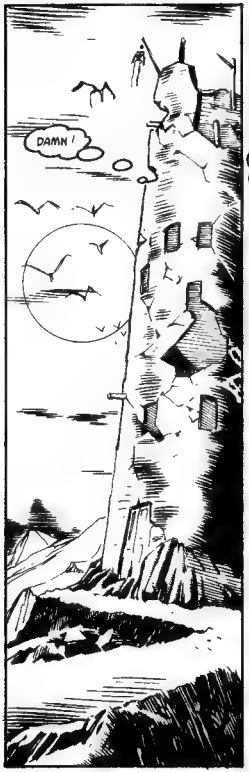
WHAT ..?

UH OH. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...

..BUT I'VE JUST...

...ABOUT HAD ENOUGH!

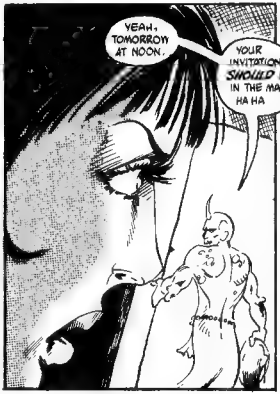
...THEN AGAIN... WHAT'S ONE MORE HUMILIATION?

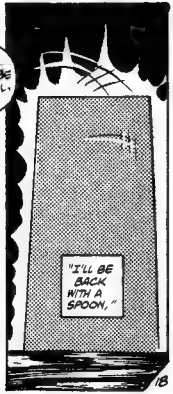

DAMN!

THIS TIME I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET TO MY OTHER BOOT
RISE AND WHINE, YOUR SOON-TO-BE HIGHNESS... WHOA, AREN'T YOU ONE OF THE EX-MUTANTS?
ANGIE
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M CARLISLE. I'LL BE YOUR WAITER TODAY.

WHERE AM I? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE IN NEW PHILLY-- POPULATION 310. AND I'M TO FATTEN YOU UP A BIT BEFORE THE WEDDING.

THE KING LIKES HIS QUEENS WITH A LITTLE MEAT ON THEIR BONES.
WEDDING?


YEAH, TOMORROW AT NOON.
YOUR INVITATION SHOULD BE IN THE MAIL. HA HA


"I'LL BE BACK WITH A SPOON."

FINE. SOME TRIP THIS TURNED OUT TO BE.
WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG?
AHA! THEY TOLD ME SOMEONE LOOKIN' AS GOOD AS YOU WAS DOWN HERE.
...OH GOD...
HOW 'BOUT I MAKE YOU UP A BIT FOR HIS ROYAL LORDSHIP?
NO! NEVER!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
HOT OR COLD MAKES NO DIFFERENCE T'ME...
...ACHK!...
THP!
THP!
THP!

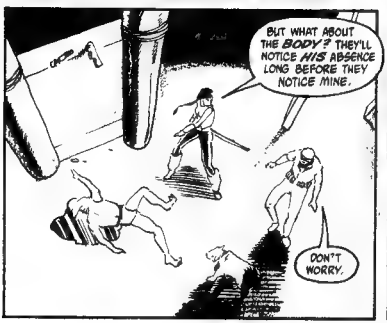
BULLSEYE! BULLSEYE! BULLSEYE!

BURTON!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD? HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
I ONLY LOST A COUPLE OF LAYERS OF SKIN.
ONCE I WOKE UP, ROSCOE PICKED UP YOUR TRAIL AND WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU EVER SINCE.

ROSCOE! YOU DEVIL! ARE THERE ANY MORE AT HOME LIKE YOU?

RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THESE GUYS COME AFTER US WITH A KNIFE AND FORK.
OR A WEDDING RING.

YOU'LL NEED THESE. YOU LEFT THEM BACK AT YOUR CAMPSITE.
I WISH I'D KNOWN WE WERE GOING TO EXCHANGE GIFTS. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET YOU ANYTHING.


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BODY? THEY'LL NOTICE HIS ABSENCE LONG BEFORE THEY NOTICE MINE.
DON'T WORRY.

"ROSCOE KEEPS A TIDY HOUSE."

AND EVERYTHING IS SET FOR TOMORROW, MR. KETCHAM?
CORRECT, YOUR ABSOLUTENESS.

THE BLOOD SAMPLE TESTED NEGATIVE. SHE IS UNCONTAMINATED.
I CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
I DON'T WANT HER FACE TO FALL OFF ON OUR HONEYMOON LIKE THE LAST ONE'S DID.

WHAT?
UH-OH.
HOW THE HELL DID SHE GET AWAY?

AND WHO IS THAT WITH HER?
KILL HIM!
AND HAVE HER TESTED AGAIN!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
C'MON! I THINK THIS IS HOW I CAME IN.

OF COURSE, I COULD BE COMPLETELY WRONG.

QUICK! DOUBLE BACK BEFORE WE'RE

...CUT OFF..
DON'T HARM THE GIRL! I CAN'T HAVE A WEDDING WITHOUT A BRIDE!

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, MR BURTON..

THEN VIOLENCE IS THE ANSWER!

SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES, DOESN'T IT?
WHISK!

AARGH!
SLICE!

GAK...

JUST A LITTLE BIT CLOSER AND...
SWAK!
...OH...
THUNK!
I TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL!
I WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR!
CHOMP!
PLOP!
ROSCOE MAKES FOR A HELL OF A POWRY.

WITH OUR KING DEAD, WE NO LONGER HAVE TO FOLLOW HIS MISGUIDED RULE.
YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY THE NIGHT AS OUR GUESTS.
NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU.

I TRUST THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS.
NO MORE THAN I CAN COUNT ON BOTH HANDS.
AND SPEAKING OF HANDS, HOW ARE YOURS, BURTON?

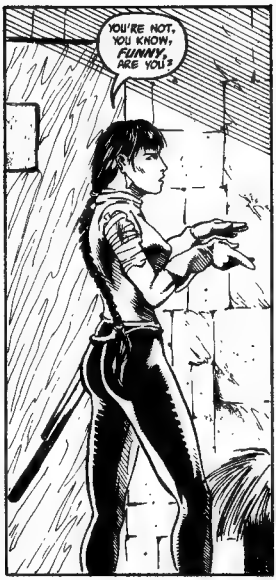
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

SHORTLY...
THIS SURE BEATS BEING CHAINED TO A WALL.
AND IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SLEPT INDOORS SINCE I LANDED.
SPEAKING OF SLEEP, WHY DON'T I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.

SAY, FOR THE NEXT 8 HOURS OR SO?

I WISH I COULD, ANGIE I HAVEN'T BEEN NEXT TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING FOR OVER 30 YEARS.
IT IS LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE
AND I'D BE THERE TO MAKE SURE YOU DIDN'T FALL OFF.

THEY TESTED MY BLOOD. I'M NOT CONTAMINATED OR ANYTHING
OH, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!


YOU'RE NOT, YOU KNOW, FUNNY, ARE YOU?

NO, I'M NOT GAY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT'S JUST THAT, WELL, I ALREADY HAVE A WIFE, AN EX-WIFE.

AND YOU LEFT HER UP ON LITTLE MANHATTAN.
NO, SHE'S DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE. WE WERE... WHEN THE PLANET EXPLODED...

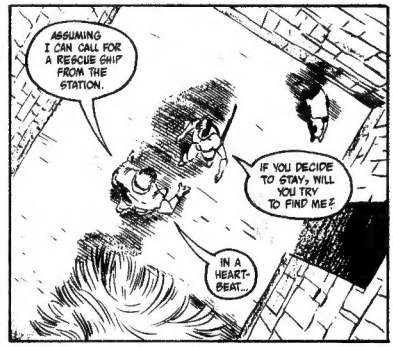
SHE'D HAVE TO BE AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD BY NOW, OR HAVE THREE HEADS OR SOMETHING.

I KNOW. BUT I'VE FOUND OTHERS WHO SURVIVED.
MAYBE SHE DID, TOO.

AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, SO DID MY SON.
...OH MY GOD... I HAD NO IDEA... I'M SO SORRY.

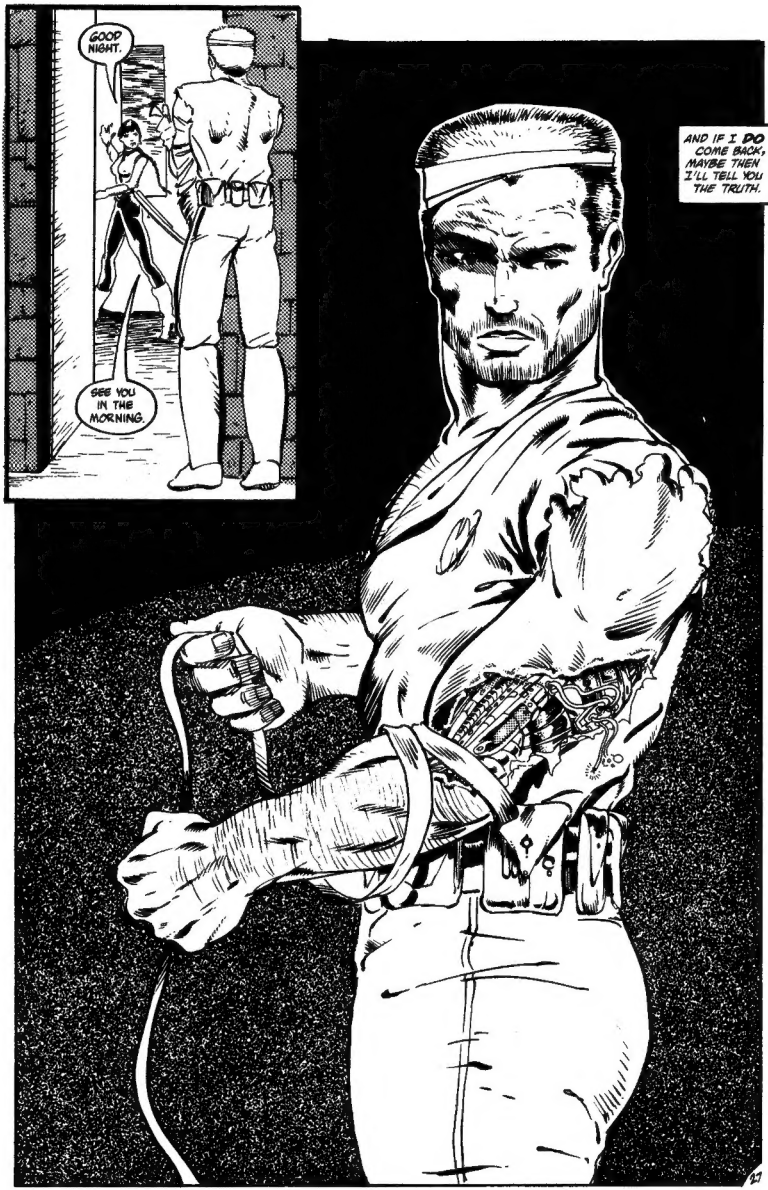
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS I ACCEPTED WHEN I TOOK THE ASSIGNMENT 30 YEARS AGO.
BUT NOW THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS CHANCE TO FIND THEM...

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
THERE ARE ALMOST TOO MANY ALTERNATIVES. IF THEY'RE ALIVE, I CAN TAKE THEM BACK TO THE STATION. IF THEY'RE NOT, I CAN GO BACK OR STAY HERE.


ASSUMING I CAN CALL FOR A RESCUE SHIP FROM THE STATION.
IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY, WILL YOU TRY TO FIND ME?
IN A HEART-BEAT...

"YOU DO LIKE DOGS, DON'T YOU?"
"I LOVE THEM."

THAT'S NICE.
THAT'S REAL NICE.


GOOD NIGHT.
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
AND IF I DO COME BACK, MAYBE THEN I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

EX-MUTANTS UNIVERSE

SHATTERED EARTH

EX-MUTANTS

They're back! All new Story and Art!
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Every Month

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Paul O'Connor/Myke/Thomas Baxa
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Every Month

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KINGSPYDER
JANUARY 11TH, 2009